



# NEWS RELEASE

## CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE

### WESLEY CHESBRO

#### Senator, 2nd District

Representing the North Coast and North Bay Counties of  
Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma,  
and Solano Counties

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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#### **CHESBRO RE-INTRODUCES LEGISLATION CALLING FOR REVIEW OF YOUTH HOMELESS SHELTERS**

**SACRAMENTO** – Continuing his fight to improve services to homeless youth, Senator Wesley Chesbro (D-Arcata) has reintroduced legislation that will require a statewide review of California's homeless youth shelter programs.

"We know that there are gaps in services where runaway and homeless youths are falling through the cracks and not getting the help they need, especially in rural areas" Chesbro said. "We also know that the further these kids get away from their homes, the less likely they are to return and even more likely to become a part of the criminal justice system. It just makes sense to catch these kids before they get too far away from home."

SB 64 would require the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) to conduct an evaluation of programs in California that serve runaway and homeless youth and submit their findings to the Legislature.

"I want OCJP, which is responsible for evaluating these programs, to provide a comprehensive and cost-effective plan for addressing the needs of our most vulnerable youth," Chesbro added. "The last time these programs were evaluated was over 15-years-ago. That is ridiculous."

Chesbro had introduced a similar bill last year, however that bill, SB 1739, was vetoed by the Governor.

"I have begun negotiations with the Governor's office on this issue and I think we all agree that this review is merited," Chesbro said. "I will continue to work with the Governor, OCJP, and all of the organizations that provide services to homeless and runaway youths to make sure California's kids are not left out in the cold."

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